

three or four Goshawks during the fall and winter, but this season fourteen specimens had already been sent in, all but one being in the adult plumage.

Mr. Alexander Calder, taxidermist, Winnipeg, Man., informs me in a letter dated Jan. 18, 1907, that ten Goshawks had been received, the first record being Sept. 8, 1906. The stomachs of those examined contained portions of rabbits and squirrels.

Mr. George E. Atkinson, taxidermist, Portage la Prairie, Man., writes under date of Feb. 11, 1907, that Goshawks had been more abundant this season in Manitoba than for the past nine years.

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## NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

THE species here referred to have recently been met with as birds of Long Island. Most are recorded because of their rarity. One, the Hermit Thrush, is herewith for the first time definitely announced as a breeding species on Long Island. The evidence is based on the capture of a single specimen of an immature bird just out of the nest, with but little power of flight, at Lake Ronkonkoma. Lake Ronkonkoma lies nearly at the geographical center of Long Island, several miles from the sea. The temperature there is, however, tempered by its influence, both in summer and winter, as the thermometer records, carefully made for a series of years by a medical friend who lives near there, show. The Hermit Thrush is said to breed regularly on Cape Cod. The present record brings its coastal nesting range somewhat further south. Further investigation will probably show that the Hermit Thrush is, though rare, a regular summer resident on Long Island.

**Alle alle.** LITTLE AUK OR DOVEKIE.—Another specimen (several have been previously recorded by me in 'The Auk') was recently sent from Montauk by Mr. Baker. It was secured on

Hither Plain Dec. 31, 1906. It was driven on the beach and there found by the patrolmen of the Life-saving Service. Mr. Baker wrote me that it came ashore during an unusually heavy southerly storm. It bore marks of having received serious injury in the surf. There were areas of extravasated blood beneath the skin of both the body and the head. Its stomach contained no food.

**Nycticorax violaceus.** YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—I have recently had the pleasure of examining a specimen of this species belonging to Dr. Henry Heath, a dentist, of this city. The specimen, which has been in his possession since the day it was shot, was taken at Orient. Some years ago while staying at the home of his brother, who lives at that place, the bird was killed by a gunner, who gave it to him in the flesh. The bird was taken, Dr. Heath believes, almost certainly in October, though he admits it may have been September or November, about fifteen years ago. This is the second absolutely authentic specimen taken on Long Island, one having been previously recorded (Chapman, *Visitor's Guide to the Local Collection of Birds in the Amer. Museum*, 1894, p. 28). About a year ago I was kindly informed by Mr. Roy Latham of Orient of his having recently met with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at his home at Orient and since learning of Dr. Heath's specimen, as above recorded, I have written Mr. Latham for details, which he has given me, as follows: "The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was first seen on May 4, 1905, in a shallow pond on the Salt Marsh. It was very tame and allowed one to approach to within 50 feet while it was running nimbly, picking up minnows. As I walked nearer it flew to a stake 100 yards away. When I left, it returned and stayed in the pond throughout the day. The pond is a favorite feeding ground of the Black-crowned Night Herons and the Little Green Herons. The second (or the same Yellow-crowned Night Heron) was seen on May 7, 1905, in a sheltered creek near woods. It flew into a tree close by. I studied it well from all points. It was in full plumage. I have seen them in Florida and was surprised and delighted to find this one."

**Accipiter atricapillus.** AMERICAN GOSHAWK.—Although I have seen quite a number of specimens of this species from Long Island,

and have recorded one or more of these, recent occurrences are regarded as sufficiently interesting to record. Captain James G. Scott sent me an almost perfectly adult female specimen, which was killed at Montauk, November 14, 1906.

***Acanthis linaria*.** LESSER REDPOLL.— Never having previously observed the Redpoll on Long Island, it was with pleasure that two were seen in Prospect Park, Brooklyn on March 5, 1907. The two, observed at close range, were even less timid than the common English Sparrow, as I came within little more than a yard's length of the nearest. They found something to pick at on the snow mounds at the edge of the walk, and as they flew I was interested to note the similarity of flight and call-notes to those of the Goldfinch, for which I might easily have mistaken them under less favorable conditions for observation.

***Hylocichla aonalaschkæ pallasii*.** HERMIT THRUSH.— Mr. Wm. Dutcher has related in 'The Auk' (III, 1886, p. 443) the evidence obtained favoring the probable occurrence of this thrush as a summer resident on Long Island, but as no further data appeared in relation to the matter the possibility of its being a breeding species remained problematical. In reply to an inquiry, Mr. Arthur H. Howell kindly wrote me that he has twice heard the notes of what he regarded without doubt as the Hermit Thrush in summer on Long Island, during the time of his collecting here. He had once heard it at Lake Ronkonkoma north of the lake, and again near Coram on the old bicycle path which crosses the center of the island, connecting Port Jefferson and Patchogue. On both occasions the song was heard in the low range of hills running the length of Long Island. To obtain if possible further information regarding the species as a summer resident, Mr. George K. Cherrie and I journeyed to Lake Ronkonkoma on June 9, 1906, whence on foot we covered as much of the ground in the east and north as we were able on that day. The list of species which we made proved most interesting to us. The object of our search was not met with until almost at the end of our stay, when a single immature Hermit Thrush was shot. This was the only thrush of any species and the only individual of this species seen on that date. It was found in a wood of mostly deciduous timber. In the tracts where the pines predominated Prairie Warblers, Mourning

Doves, Blue Jays, and Chewinks were abundant. Twenty-five species of birds were observed. Neither the Wood Thrush nor Wilson's Thrush was seen.

The young bird taken was probably not twenty-four hours out of the nest, in fact it corresponded in every particular with young Hermit Thrushes taken from the nest by Mr. Cherrie in Vermont the preceding season.

Obtaining this young bird, practically a nestling, unable to fly any considerable distance, was satisfactory evidence to us that the Hermit Thrush is a nesting species on Long Island. Our not meeting with adult birds would seem to indicate that on Long Island the Hermit Thrush is equally as shy as elsewhere, and perhaps to an even greater degree. We likewise decided, largely from the same reason — that of our not meeting an adult specimen — that it is but a *rare* summer resident. In this we may be in error. The nature of the ground they occupy here may give the birds need for special caution in exposing themselves, while it is possible that they may occur more commonly in other parts of the island than in the region visited.

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## SOME CHANGES IN THE CURRENT GENERIC NAMES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY WITMER STONE.

THE proposed publication of a new edition of the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds necessitates a careful review of the nomenclature of our birds, and in order that the names may stand on as firm a basis as possible, the more exhaustive the present investigation may be, the better.

As an effort in this direction I have, during the past year, examined the original publication of practically all the genera of the Check-List; as well as the genera of the birds of the world up to 1830. Dr. C. W. Richmond who, as is well known, has been